

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 23, 2012

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you for your interest!

2nd REGULAR SESSION OF THE 50TH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Action

It appears the legislature is headed toward a mid April adjournment. During the past week, 611 floor actions were filed; 51 of those related to legislation tracked by the Council on Aging. (See **FULL LIST** link) At the end of day 75 of the legislative session, 1,395 bills posted; 107 passed; 78 signed by the Governor; 143 memorials or resolutions posted; 27 passed. Out of the 1,395 bills posted, at least 875 did not see committee reference or action in the first house.

Next deadline is Friday, April 13th; the last day for Conference Committees in both the Senate and the House.

Senate Calendar:

<http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/50leg/senate/senatedeadlines.pdf>

House calendar: <http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/50leg/house/housedeadlines.pdf>

The House and the Senate are adjourned until Monday, March 26th at 1:30 p.m.

Legislation:

Administrative and legislative action on some of the bills tracked by the Council on Aging is outlined here with fact sheets from the Arizona State Legislature or summaries provided by *Arizona Capitol Reports' LOLA* and found on the **FULL LIST**.

The Governor has signed more bills that the Council has been tracking. Some of the bills that may be of interest include:

H2162: Nursing Care Board; Membership, Modifies the membership of the Board of Examiners of Nursing Care Institution Administrators and Assisted Living Facility Managers and reduces the number of members to 9, from 11. Increases the length of the term for Board members who are the administrator of a nursing care institution or the manager of an assisted living facility to three years, from two. Signed by the Governor on 3/20.

H2370: Death Certificates, Allows certain medical facilities to designate a health care provider to complete and sign a medical certification of death. Health care providers who complete a medical certification of death in good faith are not subject to civil liability or

professional disciplinary action. The county medical examiner is entitled to all medical records of a person for whom the examiner is required to certify cause of death. Modifies several definitions relating to vital records.

S1115: Retirement; PSPRS; Investment Contracts, The Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Board cannot enter into loans, guarantees, investment management agreements or investment contracts that involve investments in Sudan or Iran or otherwise provide support to terrorists or facilitate illegal immigration into the U.S

S1131: Transportation Project Advancement Notes, Municipalities, counties, regional planning agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, councils of governments, regional public transportation authorities and the Department of Transportation are authorized to enter into transportation project advance agreements with each other for the acceleration of a "transportation project" (defined as a project included in the State Transportation Plan or a regional transportation plan). If an agreement is entered into, the parties may advance monies to one another, issue and sell transportation project advancement notes, pledge revenues (including excise taxes) to the repayment of the notes, and use note proceeds for specified transportation advancement project purposes.

Legislative Action

H2377: Incapacitated Persons; Voting Rights, 3/22 Senate Committee of the Whole (COW) approved with floor amendment:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/adopted/2377biggs500.pdf>

H2526: Skilled Nursing Home Provider Assessments; 3/22 passed Senate 23-7; ready for House action on Senate amendment. House Summary 3/22:

http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2526_con_currefusememo.pdf

H2696: Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation, 3/21 Senate Committee of the Whole (COW) approved with rules tech amendment:

S1166: Strike Everything Amendment/Burial Duties; Power of Attorney, 3/22 House Appropriations Committee amended. Summary of S/E Amendment:

http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.sb1166_03-22-12_caucuscow.pdf

Hearings next week:

Some of the hearings on bills tracked by the Council thus far include:

H2165: Veterans; Employment Preference, 3/26 Senate Committee of the Whole (COW)

H2261: Emergency Medical Services, 3/26 House Final Reading

S1141: Public Fiduciaries; Investigatory Power, 3/26 House Committee of the Whole (COW)

S1152: Homeless Court; Establishment; Jurisdiction, 3/26, House Rules Committee at 1 pm, House Room 4

Be sure to check the listing of hearings as scheduled next week on the Council's **FULL LIST** link provided below.

Several of the bills posted this session may be of interest to Arizona seniors and will continue to be tracked by the Council and appear on the Legislative Update web page. **Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It does mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24822&listid=45455&print=true>

Note: The FULL LIST website link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and **is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.**

***This list will continue to be edited as we track actions taken.** The list has been modified to remove those bills that did not see committee reference or action in the first House. Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators at any time, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or you may **contact the legislator from your area.**

You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

If you would like to learn more about how a bill becomes law, see these links at the Arizona State Legislature's website: <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> and <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf>.

If you want to know who serves on the House and Senate Standing Committees, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp> and click on the committee name.

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

Federal Budget

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Resolution from Chairman Paul Ryan, House Budget Committee: <http://budget.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Pathtoprosperity2013.pdf>

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) calculations of long-term budgetary impact of paths for federal revenues and spending as requested and specified by Chairman Paul Ryan: <http://www.cbo.gov/publication/43023>

CBO Analysis of the President's 2013 Budget:

<http://www.cbo.gov/publication/43083>

Kaiser Health News discussion of the Ryan Budget:

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2012/March/20/ryan-budget-medicare-medicaid-republicans>

A Guide to the Supreme Court's Review of the 2010 Health Care Reform Law

With the Supreme Court preparing to hear oral arguments about challenges to the 2010 Affordable Care Act, [this Kaiser Family Foundation brief](#) serves as a primer on the pending case and provides an overview of the pending case, the key constitutional questions, and the legal arguments made by the parties involved. It also outlines how the Court could decide each of the issues and the potential implications of the Court's decisions.

New Brief Examines Economic Security for Seniors Today and in the Future

As part of broad deficit-reduction plans, policymakers are considering reforms to the nation's three major entitlement programs - Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security - that could significantly affect the economic security of seniors in their retirement years. A new [brief](#) from the **Kaiser Family Foundation** examines the role of these programs in ensuring seniors' financial security as well as the challenges facing current and future generations when it comes to economic and health security.

The Foundation also has updated its analysis of the household budgets of Medicare beneficiaries to reflect 2010 data. The analysis finds that Medicare beneficiaries on average spend 15 percent of their household budgets on health expenses, three times the share spent by non-Medicare households. Spending on premiums, cost sharing and services not covered by insurance are nearly twice as great among Medicare households as non-Medicare households. The updated analysis, *Health Care on a Budget: The Financial Burden of Health Spending by Medicare Households* is also available online.

S.2207

Restoring Integrity and Good-Heartedness in Traveler Screening Act

Introduced by Senator Charles E. Schumer (NY) on 3/20/2012.

Functions of the Office of the Ombudsman of the Transportation Security Administration

- (1) record complaints from the general public regarding screening practices at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
- (2) determine best practices to resolve frequent passenger complaints and assist in training TSA agents regarding such practices;
- (3) resolve passenger complaints at airports accusing TSA employees of mistreatment; and
- (4) field advance notification calls from individuals with medical conditions or disabilities and arrange for airport screening procedures for such individuals that ensure flight safety without causing them undue hardship.

Passenger Advocates

The Ombudsman shall appoint passenger advocates at each Category X airport from the ranks of existing TSA employees who--

- (1) have not been subject to disciplinary action by the TSA; and
- (2) shall receive- special training in conflict resolution; and

sufficient medical training to recognize frequent legitimate complaints based on medical conditions and disabilities.

Also required:

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment, every Category X airport shall always have at least 1 TSA passenger advocate on duty during operating hours. Every Category X airport shall place clearly visible signage at each gate that:

- (1) explains that a passenger advocate may be summoned if a passenger believes that a TSA employee has been mistreated on the basis of advanced age or disability; and
- (2) describes the procedures for summoning the passenger advocate.

On 3/20/2012 referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R.4165 CT Colonography Screening for Colorectal Cancer Act of 2012

Introduced by Representative Ralph M. Hall, (TX-4) on 3/8/2012.

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to cover screening computed tomography colonography as a colorectal cancer screening test under the Medicare program.

On 3/9/2012, referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number or title under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for the **Senate**.

You can contact the White House at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

Other News:

National Council on Aging (NCOA)

Virtual Advocacy Day toolkit:

<http://www.ncoa.org/public-policy-action/advocacy-toolkit/>

Tax Time Tips for Seniors: http://www.ncoa.org/press-room/press-release/ncoa-offers-6-tax-time-tips.html?utm_source=NCOAWeek_120320&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=NCOAWeek

National Institutes of Health announced an online resource for behavioral and social science research methods called e-Source:

<http://www.esourceresearch.org/>

Latest information on the **National Alzheimer's Project Act:**

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>

Center for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) announced **Graduate Nurse Education Demonstration** funding this week for up to five hospitals for "reasonable cost of providing clinical training to advanced practice registered nursing (APRN) students" in effort to provide clinical training for primary care, preventive care, transitional care, chronic care management, and other services suitable for Medicare beneficiaries. Information provided at: <http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/GNE/>

Save Your Vision Month

American Optometric Association: <http://www.aoa.org/>

National Poison Prevention Week (March 18-24)

Poison Prevention.org: <http://www.poisonprevention.org/poison.htm>

National Nutrition Month®

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: www.eatright.org/nnm

US Department of Agriculture Choose My Plate web page at:
<http://www.choosemyplate.gov/>

National Institutes of Health

March is **National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month** and those aged 50 and older are encouraged to be screened. More information is provided at:

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/types/colon-and-rectal>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: 15th Annual Pinal & Gila Elder Abuse Conference

WHEN: March 29 & 30, 2012, Thursday 8 am to 5 pm, Friday 8 am to 12 pm, Apache Gold Casino Resort, 5 miles east of Globe on Hwy 70, San Carlos, AZ 85550

For more information: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/2012/EASTConfBrochure2012.pdf>

WHAT: Free Diabetes Health Fair, *Healthy Living: Preventing & Managing Diabetes Every Day!*

WHEN: Saturday, March 31, 2012, 9 am to 12:00 pm, Midwestern University, 19555 North 59th Avenue, Glendale AZ 85308

For more information, call 602-861-4731 Ext. 7094 or visit diabetes.org/phoenix

WHAT: Special Centennial Event, Arizona's Constitution and Our Political Culture: The Progressive Roots

WHEN: April 11, 2012, 6:30 pm, Steele Auditorium, Arizona History Society, 1300 N. college Avenue, Tempe AZ

For more information: <http://morrisoninstitute.asu.edu/events/april-11-event-arizonas-constitution-and-our-political-culture-the-progressive-roots>

WHAT: Legal Options to Guardianship Trainings

WHEN: April 25, 2012 in Yuma, AZ; **May 2, 2012** in Tucson, AZ; **May 9, 2012** in Casa Grande, AZ and **July 25, 2012** in Flagstaff, AZ.

For more information including times and location, go to:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/2012/LegalOptionsFlyersRuralCounties2012.pdf>

Also: Coming in **June & August 2012** at the Disability Empowerment Center, 5025 East Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ

· **June 13, 2012 from 9 to 11 am**

· **August 1, 2012 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm and Priorities Forum from 4 to 6 pm**

For more information:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/2012/LegalOptionsFlyersMaricopaCounty2012.pdf>

Just in case you're interested:

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Enjoy your weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging